



Autumn 2018

First Half Term



Year 2 Dolphins, Pandas and Tigers



Welcome to Year 2! We hope you had a happy summer holiday.

How do the children learn in Year 2?

In Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) we deliver the national curriculum via the Cornerstones Curriculum.

The Cornerstones philosophy is based on the **Four Cornerstones of Learning**, which brings the curriculum to life. Each stage of learning has its own unique characteristics, which help children learn and remain motivated throughout each **Imaginative Learning Project (ILP)**. This simple sounding philosophy is very powerful and condenses the learning process down to its fundamental parts.



As teachers across the globe know, you need to **engage** the people in front of you before you can **develop** their skills or knowledge. Then, for them to retain this new knowledge, they have to be able to use and apply it in an **innovative** way that is meaningful to them (at whatever level of innovation that is). Finally, they need to **reflect on the learning and express** their knowledge and understanding meaningfully, so as to cement that knowledge and contextualise it.

This philosophy focuses on pedagogy; it develops teachers' skills in planning child negotiated, enquiry led learning and provides opportunities for teachers to develop their range of pedagogic skills. Above all, our philosophy is based around fun and challenge as we believe these are the building blocks of good learning.

Engage

At the 'Engage' stage, children:

- gain memorable first-hand experiences, such as going on a visit or inviting a special visitor into school
- enjoy 'WOW' experiences
- get an exciting introduction to a topic or theme
- begin researching and setting enquiry questions
- get lots of opportunities to make observations
- develop spoken language skills
- take part in sensory activities
- have lots of fun to fully 'engage' with their new topic.

Develop

At the 'Develop' stage, children:

- improve their knowledge and understanding of the topic
- develop and practise their new skills
- compose, make, do, build, investigate, explore, write for different purposes and read across the curriculum
- research their own questions and those set by others
- follow new pathways of enquiry based on their interests
- complete learning at home activities that support their learning.

Innovate

At the 'Innovate' stage, children:

- apply skills, knowledge and understanding in real-life contexts
- solve real or imagined problems using everything they've learnt
- get inspired by imaginative and creative opportunities
- revisit anything not fully grasped at the 'Develop' stage.

Express

At the 'Express' stage, children:

- become the performers, experts and informers
- share their achievements with parents, classmates and the community
- evaluate finished products and processes
- link what they have learnt to where they started
- celebrate their achievements!

In Year 2, the children will continue to learn both inside and outside. Over the week they will learn in the role-play area, library and other classrooms, just like when they were in Year 1.

Throughout the week, the children will complete learning as part of an adult focus group in their own classroom. The children have whole class lessons and experience several guided group sessions during the week in English, maths and other curriculum areas. These sessions provide instant feedback on their learning, which can easily be tailored to the individual child's current level of understanding and need. Through discussion with the child, the adult is able to assess his/her understanding and move him/her on to the next step, making maximum use of the learning time.

As you know from when your child was in Year 1, each learning activity will have a task card, which explains

what the children need to do in order to be successful at the given task. These activities always have a suggested extension to enable the children to further develop their skills and cater for the different needs of children with a range of learning styles. The supervised independent learning activities enable the children to practise and apply skills learnt during adult focus activities the previous week or to develop a deeper understanding of a learning objective for that week. They also

provide the opportunity for children to develop basic core skills such as fine or gross motor skills, spelling, writing, reading or maths.

The completion of the independent activity develops their ability to learn without direct interaction from an adult, therefore developing their concept of themselves as an independent learner. This also helps the children to develop other key skills such as co-operation, resilience and problem solving, whilst taking responsibility for their own learning.



The Year 2 topic for this half term is

‘Beachcombers’



Each topic teaches the children the basic skills, and broader curriculum, through a project which is relevant to them. This project has a geography and science focus teaching children about beaches.

At the heart of this project children will investigate the characteristics of coastlines, how humans use them for pleasure and to earn a living, and how animals use them as their habitats.

We are very excited that as part of the **Engage** stage, we will be **visiting Littlehampton Beach on Tuesday 18th September**, where the children will investigate coastal features and habitats as well as collecting and sorting “Beachcombers’ treasure”.

During the **Develop** stage the children will use their experiences from the trip to Littlehampton to create seaside inspired artwork and music. They will extend their knowledge of habitats and create their own stories. The children will consider the characteristics of the seaside and compare this with their own local community. They will also use their experiences at Littlehampton to create 'Beddington Beach' in the role-play area and outside.

In the **Innovate** Stage, we will be asking a family member, child minder or family friend to come into school for a 'Learning Together Session', to help the children make and eat ice cream! Together you can then use 'Thinking Hats' to evaluate your product.

Curriculum Newsletters will be sent home to provide an overview of each part of the topic, this may be weekly or every fortnight depending on the length of the of the stage of learning. For example the Engage stage lasts two weeks.

As when your child was in Reception, you are very welcome to come into your child’s classroom at the end of the day to share his/her learning. If you would like to come and share learning with your child we would appreciate it if you could wait until most of the other children have been collected before you come into the classroom. We look forward to seeing you.

Week 1 PSHCE Focus

The children will play games to help them get to know the other children and adults in their class and year group. They will become familiar with their new environment, learning where to find the resources they need to be effective learners. As a class, we will discuss how we can learn well together and look after the learning environment and agree how we can all make our school a happy, safe place where everyone can learn.

The children will have the opportunity to talk to both their friends and adults about their experiences during the summer holiday. They will choose some of these experiences to write about in the style of a recount. Using a range of resources they will reinforce and extend their understanding of place value.

The children will use techniques they are familiar with such as collage or drawing and they will create artwork based on their new class animal. Learning both inside and outside the children will be extending their skills relating to letter formation and spelling skills.



Learning at home

- Regular reading at home is vital to sustain progress and liaising with staff through the Home/School contact book is invaluable to your child. Children are encouraged to read each night and change the reading book each morning.
- Share the school library book that your child chooses each week. Children will have the opportunity to change their library book once a week.



Dolphins - Fridays

Pandas - Tuesday

Tigers - Thursday

- Sharing the weekly 'Learning at Home' with your child will help him/her to develop key skills. The folder will come home on a Wednesday and should be returned on the following Monday.
- Share the online Phonic Bug books with your child.
(<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login>)
- Enjoy the weekly Education City activities online with your child - this will be directly linked to the learning they are doing at school that week.

Other ideas you might like to try this half term....

- Bring pictures from home of yourself or family members at the seaside or swimming in the sea.
- Identify the different locations on a UK or world map.
- Visit your local library to browse or borrow stories and information books about the seaside.
- Write or film a book review about your favourite story.
- With an adult, use the web to research famous artists who use the beach for inspiration.
- Make a miniature seashore garden, using natural materials such as pebbles, twigs, sand and shells.
- Make a list of all the activities you could do by the seaside. Survey your friends and family to identify the 'Top Five Seaside Activities' and show the results in a pictogram or bar chart.
- Create a collage of a seaside scene using magazine pages.
- Share with your family the tongue twisters and riddles you have learnt. Can you write some more of your own?
- Make a word search with all the names of the living things you have learnt about. Ask your family and friends to have a go!
- Make a 3-D sea animal. You could use any material you like – perhaps papier-mâché, fabric, plastic bottles, clay, play dough or Lego pieces?
- Write a poem about the living things that make their home in a rock pool. An acrostic or shape poem would be fun!
- Design, draw, and paint a picture of a beach hut. Bring it into class and display everyone's beach huts next to each other.



Ice Cream Learning Together Sessions during Week 6

As part of the Innovate Stage when the children make their ice cream we are inviting a family member or family friend into school to take part in a 'Learning Together Session'.



During your visit you will help your child to make and then eat the ice cream!

You will also have the opportunity to spend time learning with your child whilst together you evaluate your ice cream.

From Monday 17th Sept, there will be sheets outside each of the Year 2 classes showing the dates and times of the 'Learning Together Sessions' which will be in the week beginning Monday 8th October.

We are asking that only one family member comes for each child as each class will have 5 families visiting at a time, we would really appreciate it if younger siblings do not join us on this occasion due to limited space in the Learning Environment.

Please sign up for a slot that is convenient for you. If you are unable to make any of the slots, any other family member, child minder or family friend who knows the child well, is welcome to come instead. We look forward to seeing you.

Dates for your diary

17th- 21st Sept	Sign up for a Learning Together Session
Tuesday 18 th September	Trip to Littlehampton Beach – please see separate letter
Tuesday 3rd October 9.15	Harvest Festival Only Year 2 families are invited to the Harvest festival, due to limited space in the hall. Harvest Festival usually lasts about 45 minutes.
Friday 5 th October	Trip to St. Mary's Church – details to follow
8th - 12th October	Learning Together Sessions - please see details above
Thursday 18th October	Open Evening – List will be available the week before to sign for an appointment time.
Friday 19 th October	INSET Day – (no school for children)



Year Two Team